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REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for his telephone conference with Applicants' attorney on March 22, 2005, confirming the non-final status of the December 23, 2004 Office Action. In that Office Action, claims 11-13 and 17 were rejected, and claims 14-16 were withdrawn. Claim 17 has been amended, and new claims 18-21 have been added. Upon entrance of this Amendment, claims 11-21 will be pending in the present application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 11-13 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 5,423,535 to Shaw in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,056,788 to Katayama and Official Notice. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Independent claim 17, as amended, recites a set of iron-type golf clubs including a long iron, a mid iron and a short iron, each of which includes a body having a striking face area containing a recess, and an insert secured within the recess,

one of the thickness and density of said inserts increasing within the set of golf clubs as the loft of a club increases and the other ... decreasing within the set of golf clubs as the loft of a club increases,

wherein the long iron has a center of gravity located closer to the bottom portion of the body than that of the mid iron and the short iron, and wherein the short iron has a center of gravity located further from the bottom portion of the body than that of the mid iron.

Thus, in the claimed set of iron-type golf clubs, as the club loft increases the inserts either (1) increase in thickness and decrease in density or (2) decrease in thickness and increase in density, such that the long iron's center of gravity is lower (e.g., closer to the bottom portion) in the long iron and higher (e.g., further from the bottom portion) in the short iron.

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The combination of Shaw, Katayama and the Official Notice fails to make obvious a set of iron-type golf clubs in which "the long iron has a center of gravity located closer to the bottom portion of the body" than that of either the mid iron or short iron, and "the short iron has a center of gravity located further from the bottom portion of the body than that of the mid iron." Shaw discloses a set of club heads "wherein the specific gravity of the face-piece components increases from the long irons to the short irons." Shaw, col. 3, lines 33-35. As the Examiner notes, Shaw "lacks a thickness of an insert decreasing from long irons to short irons." Shaw further does not disclose a set of golf clubs in which the center of gravity is lower in a long iron and higher in a short iron. Katayama fails to make up for these deficiencies. Instead, Katayama discloses a set of golf club irons, each of which includes a weighted portion 36, the weighted portion being "located at the back of the hitting point and displaced nearer to the sole 18 as the length of the iron golf club in the set becomes shorter." Katayama, col. 3, lines 14-17. This arrangement provides long irons with a higher center of gravity than the short irons. Thus, no combination of Shaw and Katayama discloses or suggests a set of iron-type golf clubs, in which, as the club loft increases, either the insert density increases and thickness decreases or the insert density decreases and thickness increases, such that a long iron has a lower center of gravity than a short iron. Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 17 is patentable over Shaw and Katayama. Claims 11-13 depend from claim 17 and for at least this reason are also patentable over the cited prior art.

This Amendment adds new claims 18-21. Claims 18-21 depend from independent claim 17 and are fully supported by the specification. No new matter has been added. Consideration of claims 18-21 prior to issuance of a first Office Action is respectfully requested.

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In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the outstanding rejections has been overcome and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' Attorney, if such would advance the prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Elaine H. Lo
Registration Number 41,158
Attorney for Applicants
Callaway Golf Company
2285 Rutherford Road
Carlsbad, California 92008-8815
Telephone: 760-930-8414
Facsimile: 760-930-5019
E-mail: ElaineL@callawaygolf.com